



Literacy Promotion

State Chair – Haley Popelka
Haley.popelka@gmail.com

The Literacy Promotion Committee, created in 1989, promotes adult literacy and involvement in literacy programs for children and adults. The goal of Waving Our Banner for Literacy is to bring attention to illiteracy's root causes and seek ways to improve and promote literacy in communities and our nation.

Literacy is broadly defined as "understanding, evaluating, using, and engaging with written text to participate in society, to achieve one's goals, and to develop one's knowledge and potential," according to the [Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies](#) [PIAAC]. ProLiteracy estimates 43 million adults in the U.S. cannot read, write, or do basic math about a 3rd-grade level and 14% of the adult population cannot read. (See *Adult Literacy in the United States*. 2019, July. [Adult-Literacy-Facts](#)

GET INVOLVED

Across the country, Daughters already work to help those with significant literacy needs to learn to read, to gain self-respect and confidence, and to reach life goals that otherwise would not be obtainable. Visit our ["Get involved in Literacy"](#), ["State and Chapter Chairs"](#), and ["Web Resources for Literacy"](#) for ideas. In the Wright Administration, we will strengthen our efforts to bring literacy to our communities.

CHAPTER REGENT/CHAPTER CHAIR

- Appoint a Literacy Promotion Committee chapter chair.
- Log members/chapters annual Literacy Promotion activities
- Complete the Literacy Promotion Committee portion of the Chapter Master Report (CMR).
- Encourage chapters to promote literacy in the four areas of emphasis.
- Compile a list of ways the chapter members can promote literacy.
- Submit informative articles on literacy to your state newsletter.
- Provide information during district workshops and state conferences.
- Enter the contest for the Outstanding Service of a DAR Member and Outstanding Service of a Chapter. Send completed entry forms for the contests to the state chair by January 5th.

Contest Application Guidelines:

1. Review the [Contest Information page](#) **prior** to completing the contest application.
2. Use the same form for **all** levels.
3. Select **DAR Member**, **Chapter**, or **State** to indicate for which contest you are submitting the form.

[Literacy Promotion Committee 2023 Contest Information](#)

[Literacy Promotion Committee Outstanding Service Contest Entry Form](#)

The Literacy Promotion Committee National Contests recognize outstanding service by DAR members, chapters, and states in the promotion of literacy. Contest winners demonstrate outstanding activity in at least one of three areas of emphasis: **Honor our Spirit of Partnership**, **Focus on Future Readers**, or **Celebrate the DAR's Commitment to Literacy Promotion**. There is one application form for all contests. Entry forms can be printed from the [Forms page](#). **Entries due to state chair by January 5.**

Outstanding Service of a DAR Member Award

Any DAR member who VOLUNTEERS to promote literacy outside of employment or normal duties can be recommended for this award. The entry form includes nominee's full name, chapter name, chapter regent, and state of membership, plus a typewritten explanation of how the member promoted literacy and why her service is outstanding. **Entries due to state chair by January 5.**

• • • • •

Outstanding Service of a Chapter Award

Chapter members may work individually or together in the promotion of literacy. The entry form includes the full name of the chapter, chapter regent, state chair, and state of membership, as well as the number of chapter members participating, plus a typewritten explanation of how the chapter members promoted literacy and why the service is outstanding. **Entries due to state chair by January 5.**

• • • • •

COMMITTEE FOCUS AREAS FOR THE WRIGHT ADMINISTRATION

Education, the third objective of our society, is more important today than it was in the early 1900s when Daughters recognized the need and helped start more schools. America continues to change, and we must change with it. The Literacy Promotion Committee will--

- Focus on literacy skills: reading, writing, comprehension, vocabulary, and spelling
- Become more educated about the root causes of illiteracy.
- Partner with DAR committees and other organizations whose goal is to improve literacy.
- Increase awareness: communicate important and timely information to the community towards shared literacy goals.
- Honor those members, chapters, and states who dedicate their time to promote literacy through the "Outstanding Service Contest," by highlighting their accomplishments.

LITERACY HOLIDAYS

- January 18: – Winnie the Pooh Day
- February 1-7: – Children's Authors and Illustrators Week/Library Lover's Month
- March 2: – National Read Across America Day, celebrated annually on Dr. Seuss's birthday, Read Across America Month
- April 2: – Children's Book Day
- April 5-11: – Library Week
- April 18: – Celebrate Teen Literacy Day
- May 1-17: – Reading is Fun June: Audiobook Appreciation Month
- July 30: – Paperback Book Day
- August 9: – Book Lover's Day
- September 6: – Read a Book Day
- September 8: – International Literacy Day
- October: – National Book Month
- October 6: – Dictionary Day
- October 12-16: – Teen Read Week
- November 1: – National Family Literacy Day, National Family Literacy Month
- December: – Read a New Book Month